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FILE ONLY

ISU opposition groups resist CIA recruiting drive

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AMES, IA. — When recruiters from the Central Intelligence Agency arrive at Iowa State University this morning, they likely will encounter more student insurgency than they've seen here in a long while.

A group, calling itself New Students for a Democratic Society has announced plans to use civil disobedience to disrupt students' interviews with the CIA.

Another group called People Against the CIA on Campus plans to gather outside the Engineering Annex where the interviews are scheduled to take place, and pass out leaflets describing alleged CIA activities in Central America. At noon today, the group will sponsor a rally near the ISU campanile, with a speech by Vern Lyon, an Iowa State graduate and former CIA employee.

For all that, the opposition groups may be waging an uphill battle.

The CIA, whose on-campus recruiting efforts in recent years have come to resemble procedures used by General Motors and IBM, has a full schedule of students who want to meet with interviewers through Wednesday.

"We supply them with a reasonably large number of people — about a half dozen a year," said Herb Harmison, placement director for Iowa State's College of Engineering. "It's a tough organization to get into."

Two CIA interviewers are to meet with about 20 engineering students today. On Tuesday and Wednesday, recruiter Jerry Crawford will meet with 28 students from the College of Sciences and Humanities.

"He has many more resumes from students who he didn't schedule," said Dan Blanco, placement director for the college. "Student interest is quite high."

Earlier this year, the CIA began direct-mail recruitment of graduate students, describing the organization as "a unique career" in a letter that went out across the country.

Opponents say CIA literature fails to point out the espionage, government overthrows and assassinations for which they claim the agency is responsible.

Evidence of more strident opposition to the CIA began showing up here last week, with anti-CIA graffiti painted on a wall in Campustown, and a guest editorial in the student newspaper calling for people to protest the CIA. The editorial was signed by students Mike Reilly, Daniel Sauter and Scott Miksch, who asserted the CIA is responsible for mining Nicaragua's harbors and for supplying and directing the Contras fighting the Nicaraguan government.

Harmison said opposition to the CIA comes from "the 5-percent on the outer fringe." For an engineer the CIA provides interesting employment, he said. "They do good work. I don't hesitate to tell people to go to work for them."